

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN EDITH CLARK**, on January 24, 2003 at 8:04 A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Edith Clark, Chairman (R)  
Sen. John Cobb, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Dick Haines (R)  
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Emily Stonington (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Robert V. Andersen, OBPP  
Pat Gervais, Legislative Branch  
Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Branch  
Sydney Taber, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. The time stamp refers to material below it.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: Public Testimony on Senior and Long  
Term Care Division:  
Veterans' Services  
Aging Services  
Adult Protective Services  
Community and Nursing Home Services  
Executive Action: None.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY HEARING ON SENIOR AND LONG TERM CARE DIVISION**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.6 - 15}***

**Rose Hughes, Executive Director of Montana Healthcare**

**Associations (MHA)**, provided testimony on behalf of nursing homes. She reviewed the issues that have caused cost increases and a sense of urgency in nursing homes: acuity of patients, staffing shortages, lower nursing home census, dramatic increases in liability insurance, new regulations, quality assurance, and decreased Medicare funding by the federal government. She suggested that rather than cutting rates, they should: raise the provider rates, ensure that the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funds are used for nursing homes rather than on other programs, increase the bed tax, and increase utilization of bed days.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a01)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 15 - 22.5}***

**Ray Hoffman, Regional Vice President of Operations for Peak**

**Medical-Montana**, stated that long term care is under siege due to significant increases in costs. He cited many of the same factors as did Ms. Hughes. Reductions will mean that quality of care will be impacted. Nursing homes need to be able to provide competitive wages in order to retain staff. It is all the more difficult where nurses are concerned since there is a national shortage. He said that long term care needs to be more competitive with wages and needs to be looking to the future, when the baby boom generation needs services.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a02)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.5 - 31.8}***

**June Hermanson, Montanans with Disabilities for Equal Access**,

offered support of Senior and Long Term Care Division (SLTC). Services offered are crucial for the disabled as well. She read into the record a letter from Mike Mayer, Executive Director of Summit Independent Living Center in Missoula, in which he urged the Subcommittee to continue funding personal assistance services and the Home and Community Base Services Program at a level that will meet growing need.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a03)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 31.8 - 39}***

**Connie Overgaard**, read testimony in support of Home and Community Based Medicaid services. She represented her son, Dustin Overgaard, who is a recipient of services.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a04)**

**{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 39 - 49.5}**

**Pat Callbeck Harper, AARP Montana,** read her statement in support of Home and Community Based Services. She stressed the importance of quality health care, independence and staying at home, and steady support for programs for the most vulnerable among us.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a05)**

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2.2 - 4}**

**Archie Nunn, Montana Senior Citizens' Organization,** spoke in support of senior and long term care. He commended Kelly Williams and Mike Hanshaw for the excellent job that they have done over the years and expressed his concerns that cutting programs will not cut the need. It will also create an added economic loss to Montana because the healthcare system is one of the largest employers in the state.

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4 - 8}**

**Charles Aagenes, Director of the Area IV Agency on Aging,** read his statement in support of the programs offered to help senior citizens. Congregate and home delivered meals, and transportation are the most recognized provided by agencies on aging. He urged the Subcommittee to not cut funding from current levels, but to look toward the growing need. He submitted his written statement and a study on aging in Montana.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a06)****EXHIBIT(jhh15a07)**

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 8 - 10.4}**

**Mona Jamison, representing Gallatin County,** observed that the funding to serve these programs is a combination of county, state, federal, and private funds. She added that in Gallatin County the adult center is having to eliminate one day a week in meals for seniors that need the meals to survive. She stated that we need to show due respect to our elders and asked that the Subcommittee make sure that the basic needs to stay alive continue to be met.

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.4 - 13.8}**

**Michelle Belknap, President and CEO of Easter Seals in Great Falls,** addressed the need for the continuation of Home and Community Based Services support and home and personal care provider rate increases. Because of the increases given in the 2001 session, providers were able to hire and retain competent care givers. The roll back jeopardizes the ability of providers

to retain competent personal care staff. Without care givers people will not have the option to stay in their own homes.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a08)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 13.8 - 25}***

**Susan Kohler, Executive Director of the Missoula Aging Services,** offered her testimony on the state of aging in Montana and her support for Home and Community Based Services. She provided statistical information on the aging population of Montana, and how the services they provide cost relatively little in comparison to institutional care. The programs are often a collaboration between organizations and individuals. She spoke about the meal delivery and transportation services that are offered and stressed that the rollback to 2000 levels would have a significant impact on the ability of agencies to provide meals, transportation and personal care services in the home. Many people may end up in institutions so the cost would be greater to the state than the cost of the services provided in the home.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a09)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a10)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a11)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a12)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 25 - 30.7}***

**Karen Erdie Director of Area II Agency on Aging,** testified on behalf of Home and Community Based Services and asked the Subcommittee to restore funding to current levels. She said that state funds paid for 33% of in-home services, 15% of transportation, and 25% of funding the meals on wheels budget. The meals that are provided for seniors are extremely important for the elderly. She suggested that the Legislature enact a tax on soft drinks as revenue to be used as a trust for aging services.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a13)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 30.7 - 42.5}***

**Christine S. Sikora, Executive Director of Senior Helping Hands,** reviewed the services offered through her program for older low-income members of the community. A reduction in funding would be detrimental to their ability to serve. She asked the Subcommittee to continue funding for the state aging programs. She provided written testimony, informational material, and letters of support from clients.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a14)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a15)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a16)**

**{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 37 - 49}**

**Linda Chapman** spoke on behalf of her mother, Dorothy Chapman, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Her mother received in-home services care. She was able to be in her home for two years after she began to show increased signs of disease and used Meals on Wheels and in-home services. The cost to keep her in home with services was much cheaper than the cost to keep her institutionalized. She touched on the expense of medication for those with Alzheimer's. Her mother spent everything that she and her husband had acquired on medication and health care. She said that the elderly and disabled deserve more from the state, and she is willing to pay more income tax and property tax and will vote for those who give her that opportunity.

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.3 - 1.1}**

**Wilma Sharp**, an in-home services care giver with one client, said that the cuts mean she would do better on welfare than working. She wants to work, but if they do any more cuts her client will lose her services, and she will end up on welfare.

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.1 - 6.8}**

**Joan Reed Kimball**, **Yellowstone County Council on Aging**, reviewed the direct services provided by her organization and the impact that the cuts would have on services provided to the elderly. She read a letter from the Director of the Billings Community Center, Robin Grinsteiner, and provided a packet of letters from those receiving services.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a17)****EXHIBIT(jhh15a18)****EXHIBIT(jhh15a19)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.8 - 13}**

**Sue Bailey**, **Caregiver Support Program Coordinator for the Yellowstone Council on Aging**, testified to the importance of the programs offered for the aging. She stressed the importance of the cab-ride program to many seniors and read a letter of support from Marge Jones.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a20)****EXHIBIT(jhh15a21)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13 - 17.1}**

**Del Lonnquist** of **Helena**, volunteer of the **Capital City Task Force of AARP Montana**, offered support for Home and Community Based support programs for the elderly. He noted that nursing home

populations have changed to a more acute type of patient and stressed the importance of in-home services to people to enable them to live with dignity. He also touched on the importance of senior dinner and meals on wheels programs to the elderly. He asked the Subcommittee to not only provide the means to keep the programs going, but to also expand them to meet the rapidly growing need of the community.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a22)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.1 - 22.1}***

**Kris Carlson of Kalispell, owner operator of Intrepid USA**

**Healthcare Services**, offered testimony in support of Home and Community Based Services. She pointed out that when in-home services are not provided for those who can and wish to live independently, nursing home placement is the only option. She also said that Home and Community Based Services is a prime example of an economic growth program. Federal funding for Home and Community Based Services provides economic growth for rural communities as well as cost effective quality care.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a23)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22.1 - 32.8}***

**Tracy Tyra, Cascade County and Elder Abuse Prevention**, read a letter of support for Adult Protective Services funding from Julie Hatch of the Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. The need for the services is great. They provide education, prevention, and awareness to the problems of elder abuse. She asked Subcommittee members to reject DP 998 which would reduce contingency funding and DP 284 which would cut two FTE, reductions which would cripple APS. The state and community collaboration has been a success. She asked that they support DP 99 which supports APS and the vulnerable elderly. She submitted the written statement and informational materials.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a24)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 32.8 - 38.8}***

**David Miller of Billings**, spoke on behalf of his daughter, Stacy Miller, who was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor in 1998. She requires 24-hour care and receives direct home care for her medical and other needs. If it were not for the home care services, she would need to be hospitalized which would cost much more than the home care services she receives. He asked that when they look at budget cuts, they consider peoples' lives and how those cuts will hurt them.

**{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 38.8 - 48.5}**

**Bernie Pepion, artist and recipient of home care services in Bozeman,** testified that he has worked hard to become a self-supporting artist, but cannot do it without personal care attendants. He has three attendants who work with him, and if the cuts are made it would impact them as well as him. He would end up in a nursing home, and his attendants would be without the income they receive from personal care work. He emphasized that he would like to be self-supporting and a taxpayer, but without the assistance he receives none of that is possible. He submitted his written testimony and several letters from personal care attendants for the record.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a25)**

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a26)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0.1 - 1.1}**

**CHAIRMAN CLARK** addressed the public with the statement that several members of the Subcommittee had gone to present legislation and would be back as soon as possible.

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1.1 - 7.6}**

**Bill Brickey of Choteau,** spoke on behalf of his wife Beth, who suffers from a disease which affects her walking, talking, memory, hearing, digestion, and she also has a seizure disorder. The search for a diagnosis and cure has left them emotionally and financially drained. His wife receives home based services through the Medicaid Waiver program, and he tries to be conservative of their use of the program so that others will receive more benefits. He asked that the Subcommittee continue to fund this program for people like his wife and thanked them for their hard work and commitment.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a27)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.6 - 12.3}**

**Russell Olson,** spoke as a father, advocate, and guardian for his daughter, Amber Olson. His daughter has a degenerative neurological disorder of unknown origin and is a recipient of Medicaid Waiver services. They are rural residents and must travel 50 miles to get to Great Falls to receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, and medical services. He stressed the importance of the physical therapy for his daughter and said that doctors have been impressed with her condition since she has been wheelchair bound for twelve years. They attribute this to her continued physical therapy. His daughter is an artist and has become an unofficial goodwill representative for the state of Montana. These programs have been instrumental in allowing Amber

to have a quality of life, and he asked the Subcommittee to see that they are continued.

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 12.3 - 17.1}***

**Dale Nelson of Conrad**, spoke on behalf of Adult Protective Services telling Subcommittee members that without their assistance, he does not know where he would be today. After having a stroke, he required physical therapy and assistance getting to Cut Bank. He hired a lady to pick up his meals and drive him every other day to Cut Bank for therapy, but it became very expensive. She brought him his meals late and they were cold and not nutritious, and she was having to fill his truck with \$30 of gas every time she took him to Cut Bank. He received help from APS and they helped him get into a place where he would be safe and receive the help he needed. He asked them to not cut the programs that had helped him.

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 17.1 - 20}***

**Sherry Maharg, Big Sky Care Center**, asked the Subcommittee to continue funding for Medicaid for nursing homes. The current Medicaid reimbursement does not meet the cost of care for nursing home residents. They have had overwhelming increases in liability insurance rates, up to 400%. Nursing home facilities are paying as much as three times the current wage in order to retain staff to care for residents. There is a greater acuity of medical need in those patients who do come to nursing homes so staff must be increased and costs are driven up.

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 26.5}***

**Karen Nelson, a certified hospice personal care nurse**, opposed cutting the hospice Medicaid benefit. She stated that she believes hospice gives the most comprehensive, quality, and cost effective care to dying people in the home. Nursing home or institutional care for the dying is far more cost intensive and impersonal. She said that she is willing to pay more in taxes and urged the Subcommittee to support the Medicaid hospice benefit. She submitted her written statement and also Robert Wood Johnson survey on care of the dying in America.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a28)**

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a29)**

***{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 26.5 - 33}***

**Mary Lutgen of Helena**, read her testimony in support of Home and Community Based Services, which has made it possible for her father, Oscar Ouren, who is a blind quadriplegic in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease to receive services in the home. He can do nothing for himself and her mother is no longer able to give him the care he requires. The waiver program has allowed a



quality of life for both parents that would not be there without the program. If they had not received the services, her father would have been placed in a nursing home.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a30)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 33 - 41}**

**Casey Blumenthal, Vice President of Extended Care Services for Montana Healthcare Association (MCA)**, offered her testimony in support of Medicaid waiver for home health. If patients are denied the home health benefit, they will not be able to leave the home to receive therapy and other beneficial services, and will thus become even more severely disabled. Those who previously lived in their own homes will end up in nursing homes. Nursing homes are already struggling with staffing shortages, liability increases, regulatory demands, and higher costs due to patient acuity. MHA has supported DPHHS efforts to adopt a price-based payment system and fought hard for implementation of IGT. She asked the Subcommittee to approve: DPHHS requests for increased budget authority for IGT payments; restoration of the \$2 million state special revenue tax diverted to other programs; rejection of the executive proposals to cut nursing home payments, eliminate home health therapy, and hospice benefit; and continue to work with MHA and MHCA on an increase in bed day assessments.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a31)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 41. - 4.3}**

**Loren Hines, Easter Seals Highland Hospice**, offered testimony in support of hospice care. He reviewed the cost effectiveness of hospice care for those at the end of life and the positive impact on family members.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a32)**

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 47.3 - 49.5}**

**Jan Jahner, a registered nurse working with hospice at St. Peter's Hospital**, asked that taxes be raised rather than take care from dying people. We should look at our priorities; the poor deserve justice and quality of care just as those with insurance do. Medicaid waivers are critical for many people to receive services.

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.3 - 2.4}**

**Skip Beadle, Mountain View Care Center**, offered his support for Medicaid services. He reviewed the increased cost to nursing homes due to staffing shortages and the rising care needs for those in nursing homes. He asked that the Subcommittee not

decrease Medicaid funding and to keep provider rate increases intact.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a33)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.4 - 7.8}***

**Jerry Smyle, Lantis Enterprises, Inc.**, reviewed the effect of increased cost due to staffing shortages, regulatory measures, and insurance on his company and its nursing home facilities and asked that Medicaid not be cut. His is a private nursing home company, and there is no fat to be reduced in the budget. He asked them to take the necessary steps to ensure the ability of nursing homes to provide quality care and stay in business.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a34)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 7.8 - 9.2}***

**Zen Hofman of Missoula**, asked if quality of good care for one hour was worth more than the price of a meal at a fast food restaurant.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a35)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.2 - 16}***

**Louanne Rickard, Zen Hofman's personal care attendant through the Montana Self Direct Program**, read her statement in support of provider rate increases and the Medicaid Waiver services. She said that it is imperative that personal care attendants be paid a competitive wage if disabled individuals are to continue to be able to stay in the home. She also addressed the increases in prescription co-payments which makes the burden greater for these disabled individuals.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a36)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16 - 18.3}***

**Brian Balock of Missoula**, read his statement. He receives several services and needs care givers in his home to help with meals and personal care. If the cuts go into effect, his life will be greatly impacted.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a37)**

***{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.3 - 23.5}***

**Kerry Reich, a caregiver for ten years**, read a letter from Kay Brown regarding the effect the cuts would have on her daily life. She then added that the provider rate increases have made life better for care givers.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a38)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23.5 - 34.7}**

**Pam Davis**, said that she has been on life support for twenty years and that she must receive 24-hour care. The cuts are creating a negative impact on the lives of the disabled. The increase in Medicaid co-payments for medication have created problems for people who already have limited financial means. The quality of life for many depends on the decisions the Subcommittee will make. She asked that they not cut Medicaid services.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a39)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 34.7 - 37.8}**

**Ludmila Pavlina**, a care giver for Pam Davis, asked that they support the Medicaid Waiver.

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 38.3 - 46}**

**Nancy Gibson, Executive Director of Belmont Senior Citizens Center in Butte**, testified to the importance of APS and asked that they not support the cut in contingency payments in DP 998.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a40)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 46 - 47.4}**

**Heather Prelat**, testified as a recipient of services to the importance of self directed care. She is blind, but is able to stay in her home due to the program. She asked that they continue to support the program.

**{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 47.4 - 51}**

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0.3 - 1.5}**

**Brett Phillips** touched on the importance of the self directed programs and said that it is important to allow people to remain in their homes for the preservation of their dignity. Self directed care allows individuals to be involved in the direction of their own care. In hospitals and nursing home the staffing needs are directly related to occupancy levels and may not be the best situation for those who do not require nursing home level care. He asked that they support self directed programs.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1.5 - 3.1}**

**Scott Howard, Sheriff of Powell County**, testified to the importance for law enforcement of APS in investigation of elder neglect and abuse.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 3.1 - 11.6}**

**Sarah Kelson**, spoke on behalf of the importance of APS. She told the story of her aunt, Una Anderson, who was defrauded of her \$6 million estate by unscrupulous individuals. She said that it was important not only for neighbors, but also for bankers, title companies, and realtors to be educated on the issue of elder neglect, abuse, and vulnerability so that they do not allow this sort of thing to happen to others.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 11.6 - 16.3}**

**Janel Pliley**, an APS worker, did the investigation into the Una Anderson case and spoke about the importance of the contingency money to their ability to ensure that abused or neglected elderly people are placed in safe surroundings while APS is investigating. She does not want to see APS lose funding or the contingency funds.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 16.3 - 28}**

**George Olk**, testified on the importance to him of the Medicaid services that he receives. He is almost blind but is able to work for Opportunity Resources in Missoula. He was once an owner operator of a trucking company, but due to problems with his health he lost everything. He asked that they not take cuts to the programs that allow people to be and feel productive.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 28 - 31}**

**Mavis Redding** is the care provider for Stacy Miller and read her letter requesting continued support for home health care.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a41)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 31 - 37.9}**

**Cynthia Shott**, Western Montana Chapter, spoke on behalf of funding contingency funding for APS. The funds are crucial for short-term assistance to help the elderly for such things as medication, housing, and home health care.

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 37.9 - 44}**

**Jason Freytag**, spoke on the importance of government funded programs to his life. He was involved in an auto accident in his youth and received a brain injury; he was also born with a Wilson's disease, a rare and incurable metabolic disorder. He is unable to live without the assistance provided by the Home and Community Based Services. He asked that the Subcommittee not cut the programs that are so vital to his life.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a42)**

**{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 44 - 49.5}**

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.2 - 7}**

**Theresa Martinosky**, testified about the importance of the integrated Home and Community Based Services to the lives of disabled or dying individuals. She stressed the importance of direct care givers in this process and reviewed the services that they provide to clients. She asked that they consider carefully and not eliminate necessary programs such as hospice. She handed in her testimony and that of Dustin Hankinson.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a43)**

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a44)**

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.8 - 8.}**

**Wilma Orth, a caregiver**, asked that they not eliminate hospice or reduce provider rates, but support the programs offered through Senior and Long Term Care.

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.5 - 11}**

**Carol Weber, a care provider**, spoke about the three children that she has cared for who have an inherited metabolic disorder which requires her services. She said that society needs to care for all people who are stricken with disease.

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11 - 14}**

**Gina Drummond, Peace Hospice of Montana in Great Falls**, testified in support of Medicaid hospice benefits and other providers. She said that they offer cost effective support for the dying and their families.

**EXHIBIT(jhh15a45)**

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14 - 18}**

**Bill Woody, President of Nightingale Nursing**, testified that they are good stewards of public funds, provide good healthcare for people who would otherwise be unable to go on living. Healthcare needs are increasing for all of us. Many people on Medicaid were working and insured before they became disabled. Medicaid cuts will negatively impact the economy and the care that people receive. There is federal match in his program which significantly offsets costs, if the federal funds are not available for the offset, he will need to cut services. Medicaid prevents cost shifting to the private sector. He said that he is in favor of taxes for death and disability programs. The 2002 budget was not enough and the 2000 budget will not work.

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18 - 23}**

**Loreen Beeman** spoke in support of care giver rate increases and funding for services. Cuts will mean that more people will go into institutions.

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 23 - 24.3}**

**Larry Longfellow, Veterans of Foreign Wars** spoke in support of the Montana Veterans' Homes and supports any increases for them.

**{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 24.3 - 26}**

**Al Madison, American Legion of Montana**, testified in support of the Montana Veterans' Homes and supports increases in the cigarette tax.

Other written testimony was submitted:

A letter from Andrea Dahl in support of dental, ophthalmological, and prosthetic assistance for the disabled.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a46)**

Letters of support for home services.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a47)**

Letters of support for services for the aging from Wheatland County.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a48)**

Letters in support of assisted living services.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a49)**

A letter and photograph in support of Medicaid Waiver services from Robert Renville.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a50)**

A letter from Art and Diana Adamson regarding staffing shortages at nursing homes.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a51)**

A letter from Betty Blaskovich regarding the loss of home services for her son, Bob, who has Multiple Sclerosis.

**EXHIBIT (jhh15a52)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:30 A.M.

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REP. EDITH CLARK, Chairman

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SYDNEY TABER, Secretary

EC/ST

**EXHIBIT** (jhh15aad)